## Message Text

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O R 282223Z MAR 78 FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6833 AMEMBASSY CARACAS NIACT IMMEDIATE INFO AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO AMCONSUL SAO PAULO

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CARACAS FOR USDEL SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY), BR, US SUBJECT: LATE POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. SUMMARY. RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES SPONSORED BY THE ARMY MINISTRY WERE HELD ACROSS BRAZIL MARCH 27 IN MEMORY OF THOSE INDIVIDUALS (MILITARY AND CIVILIAN) WHO HAVE DIED AS A RESULT OF TERRORIST ACTS SINCE THE 1964 REVOLUTION.

THE CEREMONIES TOOK PLACE ON THE THIRTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF AN ARMY SERGEANT IN PARANA WHO THE ARMY MINISTRY SAID WAS "THE FIRST TO FALL IN ACTION ACAINST SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS" THE CEREMONIES WERE HELD ONE DAY BEFORE PLANNED STUDENT COMMEMORATIONS OF THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF TWO STUDENTS DURING DEMONSTRATIONS IN RIO AND SAO PAULO IN 1968. IT WAS ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT, FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE REVOLUTION, THE ANNUAL MARCH 31 ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON COMMEMORATING THE EVENT--ATTENDED BY THE PRESIDENT AND SENIOR MILITARY FIGURES--WILL NOT BE HELD AT THE VILA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MILITAR IN RIO, BUT RATHER AT THE CLUBE AERONAUTICA IN BRASILIA.

MEANWHILE, SENATOR MAGALHAES PINTO ANNOUNCED THAT HE WWILL NOT
CONTEST GENERAL FIGUEIREDO'S NOMINATION AT ARENA'S APRIL 8-9 NATIONAL
CONVENTION AND CHARGED PRESIDENT GEISEL WITH DIVIDING THE
COUNTRY (REPORTED SEPARATELY FROM RIO). END SUMMARY.

2. RELIGIOUS AND MILITARY CEREMONIES SPONSORED BY THE

MINISTRY OF THE ARMY AND LOCAL MILITARY UNITS WERE HELD ACROSS BRAZIL ON MARCH 27 TO COMMEMORATE THE DEATHS OF 92 PERSONS (MILITARY AND CIVILIAN) WHO THE ARMY IDENTIFIED AS THE VICTIMS--BOTH INTENTIONAL AND ACCIDENTAL--OF TERRORIST ACTS. THE CEREMONIES WERE HELD ON THE THIRTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1965 DEATH OF AN ARMY SERGEANT IN PARANA, DESCRIBED IN AN ARMY NOTE AS THE "VICTIM OF AN AMBUSH" AND "THE FIRST TO FALL IN ACTION AGAINST SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS." MANY OF THE CEREMONIES WERE ATTENDED BY POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENT FIGURES, AND ARENA SENATOR JARBAS PASSARINHO, A RETIRED ARMY COLONEL, HAD THE NAMES OF THE 92 VICTIMS PLACED IN THE OFFICIAL SENATE RECORD.

3. THE CEREMONIES--HELD ONE DAY BEFORE PLANNED STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS MARKING THE TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF TWO STUDENTS DURING DEMONSTRATIONS IN RIO DE JANEIRO AND SAO PAULO IN 1968--WERE SEEN BY SOME OBSERVERS AS AN INITIAL ARMED FORCES RESPONSE TO THE OPPOSITION'S INCREASINGLY VOCAL CALLS FOR AMNESTY FOR ALL THOSE PUNISHED BY THE REVOLUTION. MEANWHILE, IT WAS CONFIRMED THAT THE ANNUAL MARCH 31 LUNCHEON IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 1964 REVOLUTION, TRADITIONALLY ATTENDED BY SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS AND THE PRESIDENT, WILL NOT BE HELD AT THE VILA MILITAR IN RIO, AS HAS BEEN THE CUSTOM SINCE 1965, BUT INSTEAD AT THE AIR FORCE CLUB IN BRASILIA. PRESIDENT GEISEL'S LUNCHEON SPEECH, USED IN THE PAST BY HIM TO INDICATE BROAD POLICY GOALS RATHER THAN TO ENUMERATE SPECIFIC OBJEC-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TIVES OR PLANS, WILL BE BROADCAST THAT EVENING ON NATIONWIDE RADIO AND TELEVISION. CIVILIANS WILL REPORTEDLY BE INVITED TO ATTEND THE LUNCHEON FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1969. COMMENTING ON THIS, PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SPOKESMAN COLONEL TOLEDO CAMARGO REPORTEDLY STATED THAT "IT IS A PROOF THAT THE REVOLUTION IS NOT ONLY MILITARY." SENATOR MAGALHAES PINTO (THE PRINCIPAL CIVILIAN LEADER OF THE REVOLUTION), WHO YESTERDAY ANNOUNCED THAT, ALTHOUGH CONTINUING HIS PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN, HE WILL NOT ATTEND WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS THE "FRAUDULENT"ARENA NATIONAL CONVENTION ON APRIL 8-9, WILL PROBABLY NOT BE INVITED TO THE LUNCHEON. MAGALHAES ALSO CHARGED THAT GEISEL MUST "ACCEPT PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR DIVIDING THE NATION WHEN ALL BRAZILIANS LONG FOR UNION;" ARENA PLANS A FORMAL RESPONSE (BEING REPORTED SEPTEL FROM CONGEN RIO).

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